

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONTEV 00564 131512Z

46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 072972

O 131355Z FEB 76  
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0659  
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0564  
EXDIS  
FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS AND USIA DIRECTOR  
KEOGH FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, PROP, UY  
SUBJ: OBJECTIONABLE VOA AIRING OF ICJ REPORT ON HUMAN  
RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN URUGUAY

1. I CANNOT HELP BUT EXPRESS IN MOST VIGOROUS TERMS MY OBJECTON  
TO THE MANNER IN WHICH VOA ON FEB 12 AIRED A HUMAN RIGHTS  
VIOLATION REPORT ON URUGUAY, BASED BY ITS CORRESPONDENT IN  
GENEVA ON A REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS SINCE  
ON THE WHOLE THE VOA TEXT CONSTITUTES A DISTORTION WHICH I BELIEVE  
THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO RESENT. I FULLY  
APPRECIATE THE VOA'S POLICY OF AIRING THE NEWS; BUT THIS DOES NOT EX-  
CUSE ITS BEING SO SLIPSHOD AS TO BROADCAST IN THE WORDS OF ITS OWN  
CORRESPONDENT THE KIND OF EXAGGERATIONS AND DISTORTIONS CONTAINED  
IN THIS REPORT.

2. AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BRING OURINFLUENCE TO BEAR  
ON THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY THROUGH CORRECT DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS  
TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION TO THE EXTENT THAT THERE ARE  
VIOLATIONS. THIS EFFORT CAN ONLY BE ENDANGERED IF THE  
GOU INTERPRETS THE VOA REPORT (WITH BROAD AUDIENCE HERE) AS AN  
AGGRESSIVE GESTURE OF THE USG INCONSISTENT WITH THE MANNER AND  
INTEGRITY OF MY APPROACH. I HOPE YOU WILL BOTH REVIEW THIS INCIDENT  
TO THE END AND THAT THE VOA AT LEAST CHECK SUCH SENSITIVE MATERIAL  
WITH THE DESK BEFORE BROADCASTING. I DO NOT SAY THE ICJ REPORT  
SHOULD NOT HAVEBEEN MENTIONED; BUT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN HANDLED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MONTEV 00564 131512Z

FAR MORE CAREFULLY.

3. SPECIFICALLY, I MAKE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

A) THE SENTENCE REFERRING TO "MASSIVE ARRESTS" OF POLITICAL SUSPECTS, "ESPECIALLY STUDENTS AND INTELLECTUALS AND TRADE UNIONISTS" IS GROSSLY EXAGGERATED AS THE DESK WOULD HAVE STATED. THERE HAVE NOT BEEN "MASSIVE ARRESTS" UNDER THESE CATEGORIES. IN FACT, UNTIL THE RECENT DRIVE AGAINST THE COMMUNIST PARTY, BEGINNING SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, THERE HAD NOT IN SEVERAL YEARS BEEN ANYTHING BORDERING ON "MASSIVE ARRESTS" OF ANY KIND IN URUGUAY. WITH RESPECT TO THE COMMUNIST DRIVE, ONE COULD QUESTION EVEN WHETHER THE ARRESTS OF SEVERAL HUNDRED SUCH PERSONS OVER A FIVE-MONTHS' PERIOD COULD ITSELF BE CALLED "MASSIVE".

B) THE STATEMENT THAT "VERY FEW OF THOSE ARRESTED HAVE SURVIVED THEIR IMPRISONMENT" CAN ONLY BE CONSIDERED A CALUMNY AND PROVOCATION BY THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT. IT IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE OR ANYWHERE REMOTELY NEAR BEING TRUE THAT, AS THIS SENTENCE CLEARLY IMPLIES, MOST PEOPLE ARRESTED IN URUGUAY DO NOT SURVIVE ARREST.

C) THE QUESTION OF "PRESS FREEDOM" IS OBVIOUSLY A RELATIVE ONE. TO STATE THAT THERE IS "NO PRESS FREEDOM" HERE IS AS WRONG AS IT WOULD BE TO STATE THERE IS FULL PRESS FREEDOM HERE. THE FACT IS THAT THE PRESS OPERATES CIRCUMSPECTLY WITHIN GUIDELINES AND A PRETTY CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIMITS OF WHAT MIGHT BE TOLERATED; BUT AS THERE IS NO PRIOR CENSORSHIP THERE REMAINS A CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF FREEDOM.

D) THE QUESTION OF THE PASTORAL LETTER WAS ONE WHICH, ONE CAN INFER FROM THE VOA REPORT, CONSTITUTED A SERIOUS ISSUE BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE GOU. AS A MATTER OF FACT, A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION OF THIS MINOR PROBLEM WAS WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE HIERARCHY, WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE PAPAL NUNCIATURA. ALL OF THIS WAS FULLY REPORTED AND KNOWN TO THE URUGUAY DESK.

E) THE FINAL PARA SEEMS TO BE A GRATUITOUS EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE VOA WRITER TO LINK URUGUAY WITH THE ALREADY CENSORED CASE OF CHILE AS TO HUMAN RIGHTS. IF NOT, WHY TOSS IN THE OBSERVATION THAT THE ICJ REPORT WAS RELEASED ON DAY AFTER THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION RECEIVED A REPORT ON TORTURE IN CHILE?  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MONTEV 00564 131512Z

TO THEN STATE THAT THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO CASES SEEMS ALMOST TO PROVE INTENT TO LINK THEM NONETHELESS.

4. ONCE BEFORE AT THIS POST I HAD OCCASION TO REGISTER A SIMILAR COMPLAINT AGAINST UNFORTUNATE VOA HANDLING OF THE URUGUAYAN SCENE. I REPEAT MY FULL APPRECIATION OF THE POLICY OF DISCLOSURE-- BUT I ALSO BELIEVE THAT THIS SHOULD NOT COVER INCAUTIOUS HANDLING OF SENSITIVE MATTER IN A WAY WHICH CAN ONLY BE INJURIOUS TO OUR

FRIENDS, TO OUR RELATIONS AND TO OUR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP USEFUL  
INFLUENCE ON THE VERY SITUATION COMMENTED UPON.  
SIRACUSA

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION INSERTED PER MR.MACFARLANE, S/S-O

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES, REPORTS, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MONTEV00564  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760055-0818  
**From:** MONTEVIDEO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760251/aaaabsia.tel  
**Line Count:** 120  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** OBJECTIONABLE VOA AIRING OF ICJ REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN URUGUAY  
**TAGS:** SHUM, PROP, UY, VOA, ICJ  
**To:** STATE USIA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006